

REMARKS BY ALLEN W. DULLES
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AT THE
CORNERSTONE CEREMONY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING
11:30 A.M., November 3, 1959

The laying of this cornerstone marks an important stage in the growth of the Central Intelligence Agency. We will soon have a home of our own, in these inspiring surroundings high above the Potomac.

The Agency was established 12 years ago by the same Act of Congress which created the National Security Council and the Department of Defense. Thus the Central Intelligence Agency was recognized as one of the important elements in our national security structure.

World War II and its aftermath and the international communist threat had already brought home to us that our vital interests were at stake in places as distant as Korea, and Laos, in Africa and the Islands of the Pacific, as well as in this Hemisphere and in Europe.

Since then, our country's ever expanding responsibilities have increased the need for better information from the four corners of the earth and for sound analysis of that information.

The law creating the Agency was voted by a Congress in which there was a Republican majority. It was sponsored and signed by a Democratic President. For the past crucial years it has had the unfailing support of a Republican President and a Democratic Congress.

Facts have no politics.

Our charter, in the carefully drafted provisions of the National Security Act, has undergone no change. It provides that, under the direction

Approved For Release 2001/08/30 : CIA-RDP62S00545A000100100020-3
of the President and of the National Security Council, the Agency shall correlate and evaluate intelligence relating to the national security, and perform such additional services of common concern in this field as the National Security Council may direct.

Wisely this legislation provides that we should have no domestic internal security functions. Yet the scope of the jurisdiction granted is ample. Our work is broad and comprehensive enough to enlist the interest and to inspire the devotion of those who choose, and are chosen, to enter upon it.

Laws can create agencies of government; they cannot make them function. Only the high purpose and dedication of all serving them can weld them into effective instruments for our national security.

In this work of intelligence we must not forget that human beings are largely the creatures of their beliefs. As individuals we tend instinctively, and sometimes wistfully, to become attached to causes, to theories, to solutions.

If they be sound and enduring, based on the deep moral strivings of man and the highest conception of our national interests, let us cling to them. But in the field of our relations with our fellowmen abroad, let us assure ourselves, through accurate intelligence, that our attachments to policies are soundly based.

It is the particular duty of this Agency to help perform this function in a world where change is the rule rather than the exception. This task must be carried out fearlessly, without warping to meet our prejudices or our predilections or even the tenets of existing policy.

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As we build a new edifice in which to house, to concentrate and coordinate our work, we must rededicate ourselves to this high purpose.

The guiding motto to be inscribed on the face of this building will be the words taken from the Gospel according to St. John: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The President of the United States has graciously consented to lay the cornerstone.

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